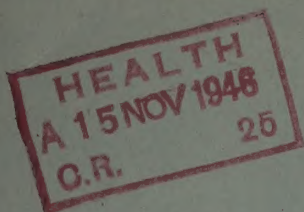


LIBRARY



Great Harwood  
Urban District Council.



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1945





GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. G.M. Boardman, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part Time)

J.K. Cumming, M.B., Ch.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

(Also a qualified Meat Inspector).

A. Smithson, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Resigned 15th June, 1945.

F. Whitham, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.  
Appointed 30th July, 1945.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR

(Lancashire County Council)

Nurse Gilbert.





GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,  
for the year 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report of the health and sanitary administration of the district for the year ending December, 1945.

The various rates in the report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1945.

The birth rate of 17.1 per thousand shows an increase of 1.8 on 1944, as compared with 16.1 for England and Wales.

159, deaths have been recorded giving a death rate of 15.8 per thousand population as against 13.7 for last year. The death rate for England and Wales being 11.4.

The Infantile Mortality rate was higher than last year, being 63 per thousand live births. This is an increase of 19 over last year, when the figure was 44 per thousand live births. The figure for England and Wales was 46.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system is lower than last year being 0.49 as against 0.76.

Deaths from Cancer gave a rate of 1.89 which was higher than last year.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy during the year; except for the prevalence of Pharyngitis during the year, otherwise the general health of the district, despite six years of war-time conditions, remains satisfactory.

Immunisation against diphtheria has continued satisfactorily throughout the year. One case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

The essential work of the Health Department has been fully maintained despite the war.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee, the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials for their valuable assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.K. Cumming.

Medical Officer of Health.





# S T A T I S T I C S.

Area in acres	2,868
Number of inhabited houses (a) Census, 1931	3,573
(b) End of 1945	3,680
Rateable Value	£62,595
Sum represented by a penny rate	£242
Population - Census 1931	12,786
Registrar Generals Estimate of population 1945	10,020

	<u>BIRTHS.</u>	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births ( Legitimate	162	84	78	
(Illegitimate	10	5	5	
	<u>172</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>83</u>	
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population		17.1		
Still Borths ( Legitimate	6	2	4	
(Illegitimate	1	-	1	
	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	
Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births		39.		

	<u>DEATHS.</u>			
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	5	2	3	
" (Other forms)	2	1	1	
Cancer, all forms.	19	13	6	
Diabetes.	1	-	1	
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	14	6	8	
Heart disease	49	18	31	
Other diseases of circulatory system.	1	-	1	
Bronchitis.	13	6	7	
Pneumonia	2	1	1	
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	1	
Appendicitis	1	1	-	
Other Digestive diseases.	5	3	2	
Nephritis	6	2	4	
Premature Birth	2	1	1	
Congenital debility and malformation etc.	5	3	2	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	-	
Suicide	1	-	1	
Road Traffic accidents.	3	2	1	
Other violent causes.	7	4	3	
All other causes.	20	9	11	
	<u>159</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>86</u>	

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 15.8

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	63
(Death rate for England and Wales 46)	
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	55
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	200







GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES,  
FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, with the exception of sputum examination for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases - Provided by Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious cases - Owned by Council.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is carried out by the District Nursing Association.

Midwives.

The Midwives Act, 1936 is administered by the Lancashire County Council, who employ two midwives in the district.

Hospital Accommodation.

General.

There are no Public or Voluntary hospitals in the district. The majority of cases are treated at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn and Queens Park Hospital, Blackburn.

Smallpox.

Finnington Hospital, Blackburn.

Other infectious Diseases.

Agreement made by Accrington and District Joint Hospital Board for cases to be treated at Bull Hill Hospital, Darwen.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Day Nursery, Antenatal School, Orthopaedic and Artificial Light Clinics are all under the Control of the Lancashire County Council.

Water Supply.

All the dwellinghouses are supplied with water direct from the public mains except for approximately 10 farms and cottages in the outlying parts of the district. No dwellinghouses are supplied with water from standpipes. The water is supplied by the Accrington District Gas and Water Board.

The water is moderately soft and has no plumbo-solvent action. Samples are regularly taken by the Board for bacteriological and chemical examination. The quality and quantity of the water has been well maintained during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of the sewerage system during the year.







### Rivers and Streams.

These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council, Rivers Board.

### Shops and Offices.

No action was taken under the shops act, 1934 or the Public Health Act, 1936.

### Schools.

It has not been necessary to close any school on account of the occurrence of infectious disease.

### Offensive Trades.

There is one Rag and Bone Dealer in the district. It is situated well away from the built-up area and no complaints have been received.

### Swimming Baths.

The district does not possess any public or private owned swimming baths.

### Housing.

Housing conditions still remain fairly satisfactory despite the difficulty of labour and materials. Several houses have been rendered fit during the year.

Although there is very little overcrowding, as defined in the Housing Act, 1936, there are many cases where sex separation is unsatisfactory due to the present shortage of houses.

### Scabies.

Arrangements are now made for the treatment of Scabies by Temporary Nurses at the Council's own baths at the Town's Yard.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

132 Children were immunised during the year, of these 127 were between 1 and 5 years and 5 between 5 and 15 years.

The approximate total of all children immunised in the district now is:-

Under 5 years of age	44%
Between 5 and 15 years of age	87%





Notifiable diseases during the year.  
(Other than Tuberculosis)

Total Cases Notified															Hospital.	
Notifiable Diseases.	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years.											Total Deaths	Total cases removed to hospital.		
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65 & over	
Whooping Cough	30	4	4	2	5	9	6									
Acute pneumonia	5	2							1		1		1	2		
Erysipelas	1											1				
Measles	40	5	7	10	7	17	35				1					
Dysentery	12	1	1	1	2		1			2					1	
Scarlet fever	18				1	3	5	6		1	2				3	
Diphtheria	1				1										1	
Total	149	12	12	16	17	29	47	6	1	4	3	1	1	2		5





# TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1945.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respir'y		Non-Respir'y		Respir'y		Non-Respir'y	
YEARS	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 10				1				
10 - 15		1	1					
20 - 25		2				1		
25 - 35	1			1		1		
35 - 45	1				1			
45 - 55						1		
65 & over.							1	
Total	2	3	1	2	1	3	1	0

Death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System being 0.49 per thousand population.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The notification of this disease is satisfactory.

The number of cases on the register at the 31st December was:-

Pulmonary	Male	13		
"	Female	<u>6</u>	19	
Non-Pulmonary				
"	Male	16		
	Female	<u>9</u>	<u>25</u>	44





Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1945.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the District during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Classified List of Inspections and Visits.

Dwelling houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts; including re-visits	406
Milk Supply:-	
Cowsheds and Dairies	82
Milk Samples	60
Food Supply:-	
Slaughterhouses	72
Butchers Shops and Food Premises	28
Fish Friers	12
Bakehouses	40
Market	16
Water Supplies	5
" Samples	15
Factories	37
Infectious Diseases	49
Schools	3
Scabies	6
Rats and Mice	65
Verminous	6
Refuse Tip	87
Salvage	41
Closet Conversions	85
Pail	12
Refuse accommodation	96
Public Conveniences	29
Interviews with Owners and Contractors	56
Drains examined and tested	14
Various	59

Disinfections.

Rooms	52
Books	23
Bedding (steam disinfected)	3
Choked drains and closets released	828
Complaints	106

Sanitary Inspections.

Number of premises visited	342
" " inspections and revisits	918
" " defects or nuisances discovered	213
" " " abated	181
" " Notices served - informal	213
" " " statutory	4
" " Legal proceedings	-





### Water Supplies.

Fifteen samples of water were taken from private supplies for bacteriological examination, of which one was unsatisfactory and three of doubtful purity.

Improvements were carried out to two wells, and one storage tank cleansed.

### Milk Supply.

Number of dairy farms	19
Number of dairymen	6
Approximate number of cows	400
Number of inspections	82

The work in connection with providing a safe and clean milk supply has been well maintained, during the year. Regular inspections of the cowsheds and dairies together with milk sampling have been carried out.

The general standard of the buildings, with few exceptions, are satisfactory.

The number of licensed producers of "Accredited" milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941, is seven.

Fifty six samples of milk have been taken for the Methylene Blue test of which thirty five satisfied the requirements, also thirty three for tuberculosis of which three were found to contain tubercle bacilli.

In addition four samples of milk, as supplied to the local schools, were taken on behalf of the County Council for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

### Meat and Other Foods.

All meat received in the district is still obtained from the Ministry of Food's Regional Slaughterhouse at Accrington.

Seventy two visits were made to the private slaughterhouse (attached to the Bacon and Ham Factory), when 1332 pigs were examined of which, the following were found to be unsound:-

Pigs Heads	50
" Lungs	134
" Plucks	17
" Livers	26
" Hearts	37

Other food premises were inspected from time to time and the following tinned and loose foods were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

57 tins Various foods.  
50 lbs raisins.



### Factories.

Thirty seven inspections were made during the year and the followings defects found:-

Absence of separate sanitary conveniences for sexes.	1
Defective fittings etc.	2
Absence of indication notices	2
" " an intervening ventilated space	1
Inadequate lighting	4

### Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses on the register is 34 including one basement bakehouse. Forty inspections were made thereto and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

### Closet Accommodation.

Forty nine waste water closets were converted during the year.

Pail closets are emptied weekly by the department.

The number of various closets in the district is as follows:-

Fresh Water Closets	1250.
Waste " "	2409.
Pail Closets	36

### Public Lavatories.

There are four public conveniences which are cleansed daily.

### Public Cleansing.

The refuse collection service has been well maintained during the year, dustbins have been emptied weekly and ash-pits approximately monthly.

Collection is by means by two covered "Dennis" refuse vehicles and disposed of entirely by controlled tipping which is an economical method of disposal.

Eighty two ashpits were abolished during the year and notices are being served for the abolition of the remainder in order to bring the standard of refuse storage and collection to modern requirements.

Approximate number of dustbins	3018
" " " ash-pits	513

### Street Cleansing.

The Health Department is responsible for the cleansing of the main roads and streets - mainroads and streets are swept daily and side streets weekly.

The work entailed in the weeding of the streets during the summer months necessitates considerable time and expense. It would be economical to the Council and at the same time, a benefit in helping to keep the streets cleaner by proceeding as soon as the opportunity permits, in the work of the regrouting of certain paved sett streets. Street gullies are emptied regularly to avoid nuisances being created, from their overflowing.





### Salvage.

Details of salvage collected and sold during 1945.

	TONS	CWTS	QRS.	LBS.	DOZ.	BINS.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper, Books, etc.	52	3	1	15			326	17	4
Textiles	1	19	3	4			21	4	5
Scrap Iron	5	11					11	15	11
Aluminum		1	1	14			1	12	1
Brass and Copper		1	6	5			2	17	8
Lead and Zinc		3	-	2			2	9	4
Rubber		10	2	-			1	8	10
Bones		12	3	12			3	6	4
Glass Bottles, Jars and Cullet		16			161½		3	12	0
Kitchen Waste	72					2701	67	0	6
TOTAL	134	-	1	24	161½	2701	442	4	5
Decrease on 1944	38	10	3	8			£164	2	9

### Pestology.

#### Eradication of Bed-bugs.

Four houses were disinfested by the department for bed-bug infestation.

#### Rats and Mice.

Systematic inspection of the district was carried out and also immediate attention was given to each rodent complaint received during the year. The Ministry of Foods recommended methods of prebaiting and poisoning were used.

In conclusion, I desire to thank you for the help you have given to me during the year, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Heads of other departments, and the members of my staff for their helpful co-operation at all times.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. WHITHAM.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent.







